

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0442

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON UN
SUBJECT: UN CHARTER REVIEW WORKING GROUP MEETING

REF: USUN 423

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. UN CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP MET MORNING OF FEBRUARY 15 AND BEGAN DISCUSSION OF SECT ANALYTICAL STUDY FROM PARA 43. CHAIRMAN BROMS NOTED THAT THE REMAINDER OF THE STUDY SEEMED TO DIVIDE INTO THREE SECTIONS: 43-48, RELATED TO COMPOSITION AND PROCEDURES OF UNSC; 50-58, RELATED TO UN PEACEKEEPING ROLE; AND 59 TO THE END DEALT WITH DIVISION OF POWERS BETWEEN UNGA AND UNSC. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE WORKING GROUP DEAL WITH THESE SECTIONS SEPARATELY AND THE DELEGATIONS AGREED.

2. USSR LED OFF GENERAL DISCUSSION OF 43-48 AND REAFFIRMED, MODERATELY BUT FIRMLY, THEIR WELL-KNOWN POSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO RPT NO CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE SC AS CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER. YUGOSLAVIA, ROMANIA, THE PHILIPPINES, IRAN AND ALGERIA ALL SPOKE IN FAVOR OF MODIFYING THE CHARTER. SEVERAL OF THEM MENTIONED EXPANDING SC MEMBERSHIP AND LIMITING APPLICABILITY OF THE VETO POWER.

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3. EGYPT SUGGESTED THAT THE WORKING GROUP CONCENTRATE ON ARTICLE 25, STUDYING HOW WELL MEMBER STATES IMPLEMENT SC RESOLUTIONS. POLAND SUPPORTED THIS IDEA. GREECE ALSO BACKED EGYPT'S SUGGESTION BUT SAID THIS SHOULDN'T PRECLUDE SUCH IDEAS AS HOLDING PERIODIC SC MEETINGS ON CURRENT PROBLEMS, HOLDING SC MEETINGS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD, AND HAVING MINISTERIAL-

LEVEL MEETINGS. NIGERIA STRONGLY INVEIGHED AGAINST THE VETO POWER OF THE PERMANENT MEMBERS, SAYING THAT IT OBSTRUCTS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SC.

4. WORKING GROUP THEN MOVED INTO SPECIFIC DISCUSSION OF PARA 43. FRANCE SAW NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE FAILURES OF THE SC TO DEAL WITH SOME CRISES AND THE SIZE OF THE COUNCIL. MEXICO SUPPORTED EGYPT AND SAID THAT THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON ITEMS NOT REQUIRING AMENDMENT OF CHARTER THIS YEAR. HE LAMENTED THE MISUSE OF THE VETO BUT SAID MEXICO DID NOT WANT ELIMINATION OF THE VETO, ONLY THAT THE PERMANENT MEMBERS VOLUNTARILY ABSTAIN FROM USING THE VETO ON ADMISSION QUESTIONS OR ON ANY PROPOSAL CONCERNING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. POLAND AND THE UK THEN SPOKE IN FAVOR OF THE CURRENT STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES OF THE SC. END UNCLASSIFIED

5. CHAIRMAN BROMS SUGGESTED THAT THE REGIONAL GROUPS MEET IN THE AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS THE ALGERIAN PROPOSAL TO LIST PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SECT STUDY (REFTEL) AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK. AT WEO MEETING IT WAS AGREED NOT TO SUPPORT ALGERIAN SUGGESTION AND TO RECOMMEND HOLDING ONLY 5-7 MEETINGS PER WEEK. NEXT WORKING GROUP MEETING MORNING OF FEBRUARY 16.
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